



AF/1648

HUBR 1067.3 DIV (10105485)

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**37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Christoph SEIDEL et al.  
Serial No : 09/896,032  
Filed : June 29, 2001  
For : METHOD FOR DETERMINING EARLY HCV  
SEROCONVERSION  
Art Unit : 1648  
Examiner : Donna C. Wortman

January 14, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

SIR:

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 20, 2003.

Please amend this application as follows: